

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for performing secure electronic transactions on a computer network, said computer network comprising a user's computer, a vendor server, a creditor server and a toolbox server, said user's computer having a gatekeeper and digital fingerprint stored therein, including:

said user's computer sending a purchase request to said vendor server to pay for a purchase, which purchase request includes a user identification number associated with said user's computer and known to said toolbox server, said purchase request initiating the transmission of a confirmation request from said vendor server to said toolbox server to confirm an identity of said user's computer;

said confirmation request causing said toolbox server to send a pre-arranged handshake and primer to said gatekeeper, whereupon said gatekeeper allows said toolbox server to request confirmation of said digital fingerprint, A method in accordance with claim 17, wherein said primer comprises [[a]] another pre-arranged handshake for a next succeeding occurrence of a transaction confirmation operation.

19. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim [17] 18, wherein said digital fingerprint is internally confirmed by said user's computer when said purchase request is initiated.

20. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim [17] 18, wherein said purchase request is sent to said vendor substantially simultaneously with said confirmation request, which confirmation request is sent directly from said user's computer to said toolbox server.

21.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A system for copy-protecting content files downloadable from a computer network, said computer network including a user's computer with a gatekeeper, a vendors server, and a toolbox, wherein said user's computer has received fingerprint programming from said toolbox for creating a digital fingerprint for use by said toolbox to identify said user's computer, and further comprising said vendor server configured to encode encoding said digital fingerprint into said content files, wherein said downloaded files will only be downloadable by said user, wherein said downloaded files can only be copied a limited number of times directly from said user's computer onto other secondary devices, said limited number being determined by said digital fingerprint encoding, wherein said toolbox configured to send a pre-arranged handshake and primer to said gatekeeper, wherein said gatekeeper is configured to allow confirmation of said digital fingerprint, and wherein said primer comprises another pre-arranged handshake for a next succeeding occurrence of a transaction confirmation operation.

26. (Currently Amended) A system for permitting a secure electronic purchase transaction on a public computer network, said network comprising a user's computer, a vendor's server, and further comprising a means for providing verification of user's identity, said user's computer having a gatekeeper and digital fingerprint stored therein, wherein in response to a request by said vendor's server said means for providing verification positively identifies user's computer, requests a confirmation from said user's computer of said transaction, and upon receiving said confirmation, provides vendor's server with a means for receiving payment, wherein said confirmation request is contemporaneously sent to a cellular device, wherein said requesting of said confirmation from said user's computer includes sending a pre-arranged handshake and primer to said gatekeeper, wherein said gatekeeper allows requesting confirmation of said digital fingerprint, wherein said primer comprises another pre-arranged handshake for a next succeeding occurrence of a transaction confirmation operation.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A system for performing secure electronic transactions on a computer network, said system comprising a user's computer, a vendor server, a creditor server and a toolbox server, said user's computer having a gatekeeper and digital fingerprint stored therein, and wherein when said user's computer sends a purchase request to said vendor server to pay for a purchase, said purchase request includes a user identification number associated with said user's computer and known to said toolbox server, said purchase request to initiate the transmission of a confirmation request from said vendor server to said toolbox server to confirm an identity of said user's computer; and wherein said confirmation request causes said toolbox server to send a pre-arranged handshake and primer to said gatekeeper, whereupon said gatekeeper allows said toolbox server to request confirmation of said digital fingerprint. A system in accordance with claim 27, wherein said primer comprises [[a]] another pre-arranged handshake for the a next succeeding occurrence of a transaction confirmation operation.

29. (Currently Amended) A system in accordance with claim [[27]] 28, wherein said digital fingerprint is internally confirmed by said user's computer when said purchase request is initiated.

30. (Currently Amended) A system in accordance with claim [[27]] 28, wherein said users purchase request is sent to said vendor ~~substantially simultaneously with~~ when said confirmation request is sent from said user computer to said toolbox server, ~~which confirmation request is sent directly from said user computer to said toolbox server.~~

31. (Currently Amended) A system for permitting a secure electronic transaction on a network, said network comprising a user device having a digital fingerprint and a gatekeeper, a provider's server and further comprising a means for providing verification of user's identity, wherein in response to a request by said provider's server said means for providing verification positively identifies the fingerprint of the user device, requests a confirmation from said user

device of said transaction, and upon ~~receiving receipt of~~ said confirmation, completes the transaction, wherein the network is a public network, and wherein the user device is a digital set top box connected to a television, wherein said requesting said confirmation from said user device of said transaction includes sending a pre-arranged handshake and primer to said gatekeeper, wherein said gatekeeper allows requesting confirmation of said digital fingerprint, and wherein said primer comprises another pre-arranged handshake for a next succeeding occurrence of a transaction confirmation operation.

32. (Currently Amended) A system for permitting a secure electronic transaction on a network, said network comprising a user device having a digital fingerprint and a gatekeeper, a provider's server and further comprising a means for providing verification of user's identity, wherein in response to a request by said provider's server, said means for providing verification positively identifies the fingerprint of the user device, requests a confirmation from said user device of said transaction and upon receiving said confirmation completes the transaction, wherein said fingerprint provides an electronic signature that can be used to identify a user, wherein said requesting said confirmation from said user device of said transaction includes sending a pre-arranged handshake and primer to said gatekeeper, wherein said gatekeeper allows requesting confirmation of said digital fingerprint, wherein said primer comprises another pre-arranged handshake for a next succeeding occurrence of a transaction confirmation operation.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium including instructions for performing secure electronic transactions on a computer network, said computer network comprising a user's computer, a vendor server, a creditor server and a toolbox server, said user's computer having a gatekeeper and digital fingerprint stored therein, the instructions, that when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform operations according to the method of claim 17. comprising:

said user's computer sending a purchase request to said vendor server to pay for a purchase, which purchase request includes a user identification number associated with said user's computer and known to said toolbox server, said purchase request initiating the

transmission of a confirmation request from said vendor server to said toolbox server to confirm an identity of said user's computer;

said confirmation request causing said toolbox server to send a pre-arranged handshake and primer to said gatekeeper, wherein said gatekeeper allows said toolbox server to request confirmation of said digital fingerprint, and wherein said primer comprises another pre-arranged handshake for a next succeeding occurrence of a transaction confirmation operation.